Library

TRAWDEN

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1964

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TRAWDEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Chairman of the Council - A. H. Robson, J.P.

Health Committee.

W. Banks (Chairman)

Mrs. I. G. Banks.

G. Bannister.

D. Barber.

A. Birtwistle.

W. Crowther.

P. Gorman.

W. F. Morville.

J. E. Pollard,

A. H. Robson, J.P.

S. Smith.

K. Tunnacliffe.

Clerk of the Council.

William R. Fisher.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

John V. Dyer, M.B.,M.R.C.S.,D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector and Surveyor.

R. H. Short, M.A.P.H.I.,A.R.S.H.

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Council Offices,
Trawden Forest,
Colne.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Banks, and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Urban District for the year 1964. The form and content are in accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular 1/1965 dated 11th January 1965.

Once again, there have been no maternal deaths, still births or illegitimate births. One baby unfortunately died soon after birth. There has been a slight reduction in the estimated population, but you will note that for the second year there has been a natural increase - excess of births over deaths. You may be interested to see a breakdown of ages of death:-

	Age in Years.										
	Under 1	1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75 and over	Total
Male	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	4	3	3	12
Female	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	7	12

The death rate, after adjusting for the age and sex structure of the population, is 11.9 per 1,000 population; very close to that of England and Wales as a whole, 11.3 per 1,000.

Satisfactory progress has been made in the slum clearance programme. When the present phase has been completed, the resulting useful site will be ideally placed in the village for the proposed purpose-built combined clinic and library.

Similarly, at last a positive step was taken, towards the end of the year, to do something about the pail closets. In some properties, I agree it is impracticable to do anything, but in many cases I feel that conversion to a fresh water closet, the only acceptable system in this nuclear/space age, should be the constant aim, by pursuasion, encouragement, or even compulsion. My views on this subject are well known in East Lancashire, and as one joker commented, "What will come first, toilet conversions or your retirement?". At our present average rate of under 10 conversions a year, I will be beaten by a short head!

1964 was an epidemic year for measles, and 37 cases were notified to the department. This childhood illness characteristically assumes epidemic proportions in alternate years. For some reason, Trawden was missed in 1962, so there were four years in which a reservoir of susceptible children built up. Although dismissed lightly, measles can cause serious disability, and even yet, there is a tragically high mortality rate. It is anticipated that the protective vaccine which has been undergoing trials in recent years, will become generally available in the very near future.

My sincere thanks once again go to my colleague, Mr. Short as both Public Health Inspector and Surveyor, and it is with gratitude that I acknowledge the continued encouragement and interest of the Health Committee.

I am,
Your obedient servant,
J. V. Dyer,
Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area of District (acres) --- --- --- --- ---	6,815
Population (census 1951) --- --- --- --- ---	2,114
" (census 1961) --- --- --- --- ---	1,951
" (Mid 1964) - Registrar General's Estimate	1,900
Number of inhabited houses (census 1961) --- ---	742
" " " " 1964 --- --- ---	762
Rateable Value --- --- --- --- --- --- ---	£39,588
Sum represented by a Penny Rate --- --- --- ---	£145

The social conditions of the District are very satisfactory. Being of only modest size there is a well developed community spirit and a high degree of self-help.

There is very little unemployment; indeed thereis a daily influx of workers to the town from neighbouring districts.

The chief occupations of the inhabitants are textile manufacture, agriculture, light engineering, and laundering.

	Males	Females	Total.
Live Births (Legitimate) --- --- ---	16	16	32
" " (Illegitimate) --- --- ---	-	-	-
	16	16	32

Live Birth Rates per 1,000 estimated population:-

Crude Rate --- --- --- --- --- ---	16.8
Adjusted Rate (Comparability factor 1.26)---	21.2
Still Births --- --- --- --- --- ---	Nil.

	Males	Females	Total.
Deaths (All causes) --- --- --- ---	12	12	24
Deaths from Maternal causes --- ---	-	Nil	Nil
Deaths of Infants (under 1 year) --- ---	1	Nil	1
Deaths of Infants (under 4 weeks)--- ---	1	Nil	1
Deaths of Infants (under 1 week) --- ---	1	Nil	1

Mortality Rates per 1,000 estimated population:-

Crude Rate --- --- --- --- --- ---	12.6
Adjusted Rate (Comparability factor 0.94)---	11.9

Classification of causes of Death during 1964.

	Males	Females	Total.
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung Bronchus	2	-	2
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	1	1	2
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	2	6	8
Coronary Disease; Angina	2	2	4
Other Heart Disease	1	1	2
Bronchitis	1	-	1
Accidents	-	1	1
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	3	1	4
	12	12	24

COMPARITIVE VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE FIVE YEARS 1960 - 1964.

Year	Live Births	Still Births	Deaths (all causes)	Maternal Mortality	Infant Mortality	
					Under 4 weeks	Under 1 year
1964	32	Nil	24	Nil	1	1
1963	32	Nil	27	Nil	Nil	Nil
1962	28	Nil	35	Nil	Nil	Nil
1961	31	Nil	28	Nil	2	2
1960	29	Nil	32	Nil	Nil	Nil

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

The main work of the Health Department concerns the control of infectious diseases and the environment in which we live - a service for which the Council is responsible.

The present section of the Report relates to those health services which concern the personal health and welfare of the individual rather than the population as a whole. The majority of these services are the responsibility of the Lancashire County Council, which has delegated much of the day-to-day administration to the Divisional Health Committee (No.6) on which Trawden has a representative. Co-ordination of the services is facilitated by the fact that your Medical Officer of Health acts also as Divisional Medical Officer and School Medical Officer.

National Health Service Act, 1946, Part III.

1. Care of Expectant and Nursing Mothers and Young Children:-

   Ante-natal and Post-natal Clinics - Bank House, Albert Rd.,Colne.
   Child Welfare and Immunisation - Co-op Rooms, Trawden.
   (alternate Tuesdays 2 - 4 p.m.)
   - Hartley Hospital, Colne.
   (alternate Tuesdays 2 - 4 p.m.)

2. Domiciliary Midwifery - two midwives are resident in Colne.
3. Health Visiting - from Bank House, Colne.
4. Home Nursing - Trawden is served by a District Nurse.
5. Home Help Service including night service.
6. Ambulance Service - Trawden is served from the Nelson Ambulance Station. All vehicles are under radio control.
7. Mental Health - care, supervision and after-care of the Mentally Ill. A junior training centre for mentally subnormal children is available at Nelson, and a hostel, with an adjacent workshop, has been built at Colne for the employment of subnormal adults.
8. Prevention of Illness - care and after-care. This includes Health Education, convalescent care, prevention cure of Tuberculosis, Chiropody, and loan of nursing equipment.

National Assistance Act, 1948 - Welfare Services.

1. Homes for the aged - there are five homes in the Division belonging to the Lancashire County Council; in addition, two private homes for the aged, which are registered and regularly inspected.
2. Temporary accommodation is provided by the County Council for cases of urgent need, such as eviction, fire, flooding, etc.
3. Handicapped persons - registers are kept so that all may be aquainted with and have the benefits of the help available. This includes occupational therapy, holiday schemes, and membership of one of the clubs, the nearest being at the British Legion Headquarters, Colne.
4. Section 47. No action was necessary during the year.

Education Act, 1944 - School Health Service.

The School Nurse is also the District Health Visitor and thus knows all the children from babyhood. She and the School Medical Officer visit the Trawden School regularly. In addition to the routine medical and dental inspections of children, various clinics, some attended by visiting specialists, are provided for the correction and treatment of certain defects.

Hospitals and Laboratory.

Hospital facilities for the Urban District are provided by the Burnley and District Hospital Management Committee of the Manchester Regional Hospital Board.

Patients with infectious diseases who cannot be suitably cared for at home would go to the Marsden Hospital.

Maternity Homes are available at Colne, Nelson and Burnley.

Pathological specimens and food samples are examined at the Victoria Hospital, Burnley, and the Public Health Laboratory, Preston.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The only disease notified was measles, apart from one patient with tuberculosis. This has been the case for the past six years. It is particularly pleasant to report this, in an area where there is so much gastro-intestinal disease about.

The number of Notifiable Diseases notified in the past five years is as follows:-

1964	---	---	37
1963	---	---	1
1962	---	---	1
1961	---	---	6
1960	---	---	43

In an area such as Trawden the great majority of the younger school children will all attend the school in the town, and so will not come into regular contact with infectious diseases endemic in larger urban areas. But when an infection is introduced, there will be a sudden and all embracing epidemic, which only abates when the supply of contacts is exhausted.

For this reason we must not relax our aim to have every baby protected from diphtheria, whooping cough, poliomyelitis, and tetanus (lock-jaw). The young mothers of today have never known the tragedies of diphtheria, and we hope that our children will not know that of poliomyelitis. The acceptance rate for smallpox vaccine is particularly disappointing.

Immunisation is a free service, available either from the family doctor or at child welfare centres.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

No action was required in 1964.

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REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1964.

Dr. J. V. Dyer,
Medical Officer of Health,
Trawden U.D.C.

Dear Sir,

I have pleasure in submitting my report for the year ended 31st December 1964.

Housing conditions continue to improve, and there has been an increase of over 50% in the number of Standard Grant applications approved. Since the coming into force of the House Purchase and Housing Act,1959 79 applications have been dealt with. This is a commendable total comparing favourably with progress throughout the country generally.

The low incidence of serious infectious disease and the decreasing number of public health nuisances indicate a progressive improvement in the standard of living and environmental health, a state of affairs which is gratifying, but which should not give rise to complacency.

Once again I wish to express my thanks to you for your advice and encouragement, to the Health Committee for their interest and support, and to the other officers and staff of the Council for their ready co-operation and assistance.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

R. H. Short,

Public Health Inspector.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

Public Supply.

The mains water for the Urban District is supplied by the North Calder Water Board, and is derived from springs on Boulsworth Hill.

During the year 42 samples of water from the public supply were taken for Bacteriological Examination and 4 for Chemical Analysis. The supply is adequate, soft, and of good quality.

No. of houses supplied	--- --- ---	674
No. of business premises supplied	---	61
No. of places of worship supplied	---	7

Hardness of mains water.

		Parts per million.
Temporary Hardness (removeable by boiling)	---	15.00
Permanent " (after boiling)	---	15.00
Total Hardness	---	30.00

Private Water Supplies.

81 houses and farms, which have no public mains within a reasonable distance are supplied from private sources.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

The sewers of the District discharge into the Colne Corporation sewer at Cottontree, via a Lea Recorder, and treatment is carried out by Colne Corporation under agreement.

There are approximately 4¾ miles of sewers in the District.

Fewer blockages of the sewers have been experienced during the year, and it would seem that the appeal made to the cotton manufacturers in the District in 1963 was successful to some extent in reducing the ingress of cotton waste into the sewers. It remains to be seen how long this will continue to be effective. The most serious obstruction occurred during an exceptionally heavy storm in July, when the surcharge dislodged a manhole cover and frame in Skipton Road, causing damage to the carriageway and footpath.

A section of the sewer along the river side from Hollin Hall was relaid in cast iron pipes following subsidence. Some sections of this sewer are laid in unstable ground and trouble has been experienced with percolation from defective joints. It seems possible that repairs or relaying of other sections may become necessary in the future.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No serious pollution of the rivers and streams in the District occurred during the year. When necessary, the Lancashire River Board is notified in the event of pollution.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

83 properties are on the conservancy system, the majority of which are situated in outlying locations. During the year the Council raised the grant for the conversion of pail closets from £5 to £25 or half the cost if this is less than £25. This has resulted in a small number of enquiries regarding the installation of septic tanks and advice has been given in some cases. The provision of a septic tank unfortunately often presents difficulties by reason of unsuitable gradients, availability of land, and facilities for the discharge of the effluent, and in some cases one or other of these difficulties cannot be overcome.

There have been more waste water closet closet conversions than in 1963, but progress still remains slow.

Early in the year the old outdoor sanitary accommodation at the Trawden County Primary School was abolished, and new internal W.C.s and washing facilities installed by the Lancashire County Council.

Sanitary Accommodation at the end of 1964:-

Pail Closets --- --- --- --- ---	83
Waste Water Closets --- --- --- ---	153
Fresh Water Closets --- --- --- ---	694
Pail Closets converted during the year ---	2
Waste Water Closets converted during the year	7

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The collection of refuse is carried out fortnightly from approximately 800 ashbins, using a 2/3 ton Bedford side loader. Disposal is by tipping in a disused quarry at Winewall. During the year a bulldozer was hired to level the tip.

The scheme instituted in 1962 for the recovery and sale of waste paper continues to prove successful and worthwhile. The total quantity of paper recovered during the year was 26 tons 8 cwt, an increase of 5 tons on the previous year. In addition scrap metal to the value of £63 : 0 : 0 was salvaged.

A charge of 2/- per bin is made for the collection of trade waste.

Street scavenging is carried out by manual labour at regular intervals, with the assistance of a pedestrian controlled broom, which is attached to an Allen Motor Scythe.

When necessary the Council hire a motor gully emptier from a neighbouring authority for the cleansing of road gullies.

The pail closets in the area, except a number in outlying situations, are serviced weekly by private contractor.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

The Council own and maintain two modern public conveniences and one public urinal, and these are cleansed weekly. Public conveniences, utilising pail closets are also maintained at Wycoller.

SHOPS AND OFFICES.

Inspections have been made of the shops and offices in the area, and no legal action has been necessary. During the year the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1964 came into force. This Act requires certain shops and office premises to be registered with the Local Authority and provides for more comprehensive control of health and welfare conditions than hitherto.

FACTORIES.

Factories Acts 1937 and 1959.

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

PREMISES	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	-	-	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Sec.7 is enforced by L.A.	11	23	-	-
(3) Other premises in which Sec.7 is enforced by L.A. (excluding outworkers premises)	1	3	-	-
Total	12	26	-	-

There were no outworkers resident in the District. One factory was found to have insufficient sanitary accommodation.

RODENT CONTROL.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

	Type of Property		
	Dwelling Houses	All Others.	Agricultural
No. of properties in District	720	240	71.
No. of properties inspected	78	32	11
Total Inspections.	85	41	15
No. of properties inspected found to be infested by:			
Rats - Major.	-	-	-
Minor	1	1	-
Mice - Major.	-	-	-
Minor	2	1	-
No. of infested premises treated	3	2	-
Total treatments	3	2	-
No. of "Block" control schemes.	-	-	-

Treatment of Sewers for Rats.

Baiting of the sewers for rats was carried out during the year, using ready mixed Warfarin '5', pinhead oatmeal, castor sugar, technical white oil, and paranitrophenol. The results indicated an absence of infestation of the sewers.

In no case was legal action found necessary under the provisions of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956.

There are three factory chimneys in the Urban District. No contraventions of the Clean Air Act, 1956 have occurred requiring action.

DISINFESTATION.

It is encouraging to note that no cases of infestation by insect pests have occurred requiring action by the Local Authority. Advice and assistance has been given when sought in minor cases.

HOUSING.

The housing conditions in the area are generally good, and although many of the houses are old and of the terrace type, the majority of these are well maintained and provided with amenities formerly lacking.

The grant aided improvement of dwelling-houses has continued during the year, which means that steady progress is being made in raising the standard of living conditions generally. Since the inception of the Standard Grant scheme under the Housing and House Purchase Act, 1959 the number of applications submitted has reached 79, an encouraging figure.

The Low Street area has continued to receive attention during the year, resulting in the closing of a further 3 houses, two of these being effected by action under the Housing Acts. Early in the year the demolition of 10 houses and two shops was completed.

STATISTICS.

Number of inhabited houses --- --- --- --- ---	762
" " dwelling-houses inspected --- --- ---	73
" " houses closed --- --- --- --- ---	3
" " " demolished --- --- --- --- ---	10
" " back-to-back houses --- --- --- ---	38
" " other houses with no through ventilation. ---	56

Standard Grants (House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959).

Applications submitted to Local Authority --- ---	17
" approved by " " --- --- ---	17
Work completed and grants paid --- --- --- ---	14

Local Authority Housing. Plans were approved and the contract let for the erection of 11 bungalows for old people at Boulsworth Drive.

Overcrowding. No action has been necessary.

CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

During the year the typhoid outbreak at Aberdeen became a matter of considerable concern throughout the country, and the Ministry of Health requested the nation-wide withdrawal of certain brands of 6lb cans of corned beef. All the food premises in the District were visited and stocks of corned beef examined, but as none of the specified brands were found, no action was necessary.

MILK SUPPLY.

The milk supply in the area is generally satisfactory.

ICE CREAM.

There are six premises registered for the storage and sale of pre-packed ice cream under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Regular inspections have been made during the year. There are no manufacturers of ice cream in the area. Three mobile ice cream vendors from neighbouring areas trade in the District.

FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1960.

The standard of cleanliness and food handling practice of the traders in the District is generally good. No action was found necessary under the Regulations.

FOOD POISONING.

No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year.

MISCELLANEOUS.

There are no caravan or camping sites, no common-lodging houses, no houses let in multiple occupation and no offensive trades in the District.

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